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POCKET GUIDE TO

THE CITIES OF THE NETHERLANDS

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POCKET GUIDE TO

THE CITIES OF THE NETHERLANDS

WAR DEPARTMENT • WASHINGTON, D.C.

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ATTENTION

About the only thing in this booklet that can be guaranteed is the terrain. The rest of it is up to the fortunes or misfortunes of war. Many of the towns and cities described here have been bombed and shelled by us as we approached, and shelled by the enemy as he retreated. And many of them will still show the marks of the destruction visited upon them when these lands were being conquered and occupied by the Germans.

The short historical notes and city plans concerning most of the towns are correct as of the outbreak of the war. But the changes of war were still happening in many places when this pocket guide went to press.

You may find that art treasures described and located in these pages have been looted or destroyed, and it may be years before those that can be restored are sights to see again. On the other hand, some of them, by a stroke of good fortune, may be left intact, and you will be able to enjoy them.

And another thing: if some of these towns should be declared off limits, you'll bypass them, of course. Perhaps later, they may be open to you.

Food and drink are discussed here, so that as times gradually return to normal, you may be guided in the tastes and customs of the country. But be sure that you are not encouraging a black market or bringing hardship to the native civilian population if you take advantage of what the town or region has to offer. You will receive direction from the proper authority in this matter.

Anyhow, so far as your military duties permit, see as much as you can. You've got a great chance to do now, major expenses paid, what would cost you a lot of your own money after the war. Take advantage of it.

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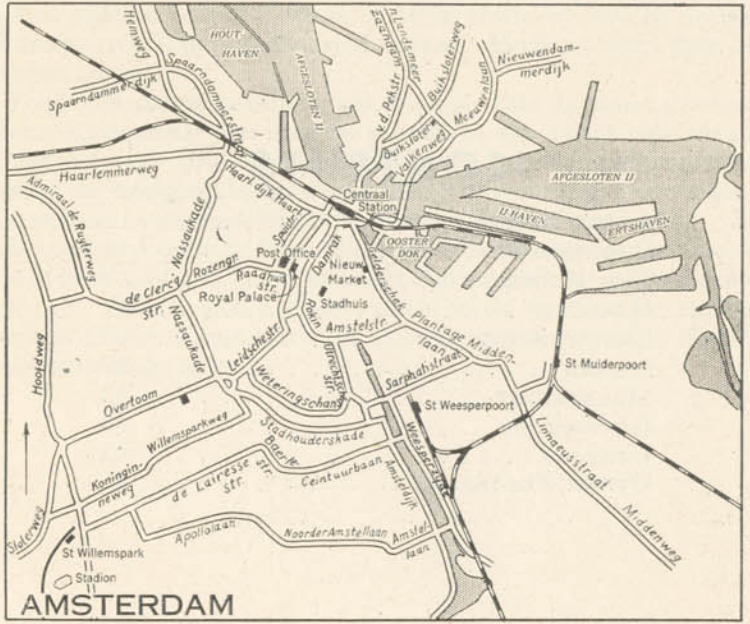

AMSTERDAM

AMSTERDAM is designated in the Dutch Constitution as the "Hoofdstad" or "chief city" of the Netherlands. It is not the seat of the government, nor the residence of the royal family, which are at The Hague. But it is Holland's largest city (it had a pre-war population of nearly 800,000) and was one of the greatest commercial and banking centers of the world.

The foundation of Amsterdam dates back to the thirteenth century, when merchants built a dam in the river Amstel. The settlement which grew up around this dam was originally called Amsteldam. The city's first boom came in the sixteenth century, after the northern Netherlands provinces had fought for and won their freedom from Spanish rule. Amsterdam became the capital of Holland, the most important of the seven united provinces. Its citizens became the merchants of the world. Many of the famous explorers came from Amsterdam or raised the money there to finance their voyages; Henry Hudson set out from there on the expedition which led him up the Hudson River. The merchants of Amsterdam organized the Netherlands East India Company

and the Netherlands West India Company, which at one time or another during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries governed parts of the East Indies, South Africa, and Brazil—not to mention New York City, which, you remember, was first called New Amsterdam. In the seventeenth century it was often said that world policy was made in Amsterdam. While the importance of the city declined after 1750, it made a comeback around the middle of the nineteenth century, becoming the center of the Dutch East Indies trade and the market for all Indies products. Money from this trade flowed into Amsterdam and made it one of the world's financial centers, able to lend funds to companies and governments all over the world.

The original settlement of Amsteldam was built in the form of a half moon on the shores of the Y (in Dutch *Het Ij*), an arm of the ZUIDER ZEE, with the Amstel, which flows into the Y, as nerve center. For defense purposes a semicircular canal was dug on the landward side of the settlement. Each time the town was extended, a new canal was built in a wider semicircle, parallel to the last one, until there were four such canals, called "grachten," with their ends resting in the Y. The first three were the HEERENGRACHT (Lord's Canal), the KEIZERGRACHT (Emperor's Canal), and the

PRINSENGRACHT (Princes' Canal); with their tree-bordered quays and seventeenth-century houses, they form the main thoroughfares of the city. The fourth canal is the SINGELGRACHT (Girdle Canal), which marks the boundary of Amsterdam at the end of the seventeenth century. Since then the system of semicircular canals has been abandoned, and the city has grown in every direction, even spreading to the opposite shore of the Y, which is connected with the rest of Amsterdam by a ferry. Several lesser canals intersecting the main ones were built for shipping purposes, however, so that the city is divided into islands. It is impossible to go many blocks without crossing a bridge; there are more than 360 bridges, giving Amsterdam the name of "Venice of the North." A remarkable feature of all Amsterdam buildings is that, because of the marshy terrain, they have had to be built on piles.

The old center of the city, bounded by the four main canals, is the most interesting part, and apparently it has been little damaged by the war. There are two ways to see it: one is by motor launches, which in pre-war days ran regular excursions along the canals; the other and better way is simply by walking, first along the quays of the Heerengracht and the Prinsengracht, the two oldest and most interesting of the canals. As you walk,

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look for the remnants of the old city gates at some of the canal crossings.

The heart of Amsterdam, and indeed of Dutch life, is a big square called the DAM in the oldest part of the city, between the Heerengracht and the Y. It is surrounded by historic buildings, of which the most important are the ROYAL PALACE and the NIEUWE KERK (New Church). The palace is a beautifully decorated classical structure, originally built to be the Amsterdam city hall; the great white marble hall inside has no columns to support the ceiling, in spite of its enormous size. The kings and queens of Holland are crowned in the Nieuwe Kerk, which has many interesting monuments in its fine Gothic interior. On one side of the *Dam* is a narrow street called KALVERSTRAAT; this is the main shopping street of Amsterdam. On the other side a wide street called HET DAMRAK leads to the CENTRAL STATION. Along Het Damrak are the PRODUCE EXCHANGE, a modern building designed by one of Holland's foremost architects, and the STOCK EXCHANGE. The Central Station, which handles 80% of Amsterdam's rail traffic, is well worth a visit; it is built on an island in the Y and is surrounded by docks where in peacetime you would see ships from all parts of the world loading and unloading.

Other interesting places in the old part of Amsterdam are the OUDE KERK (Old Church), built in the 14th century; the WEIGHHOUSE; the MUNTTOWER, or old mint; the WESTERTOWER, topped by a golden crown which the German Emperor Maximilian gave Amsterdam in gratitude for its help in one of his many wars; the SCHREYERSTOWER (Weeping Tower) on the harbor, where the sailors' wives used to wave good-bye to their departing husbands; the old STATE UNIVERSITY; the PRINCEHOUSE (town hall); the REMBRANDTHUIS, home of the great painter Rembrandt, which is now a museum filled with his etchings. If you like paintings, there are several museums in Amsterdam, and, if the Germans did not take everything away, they are worth all the time you can spend in them. The most famous gallery is in the RIJKS or State museum, which has—or had before the war—Rembrandt's "Night Watch" and "Syndics of the Cloth Hall," two of the greatest paintings of all time, many more Rembrandts, and other fine paintings by Dutch and other European masters. The MUNICIPAL MUSEUM has, or had, a fine collection of modern Dutch and French art, and the COLONIAL INSTITUTE specializes in objects from the Netherlands East Indies.

Other places you will want to see in Amsterdam are the two squares, REMBRANDTPLEIN and LEIDSCHEPLEIN (Leiden Square); most of the cafes, restaurants, movie houses and theaters are in or near them. Between the Heerengracht and the Keizergracht you will find the picturesque old JEWISH QUARTER, with its synagogues, of which the Portuguese is the best known; here also is the heart of the diamond-cutting industry for which Amsterdam is noted. You will want to see the famous ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, in the northeast corner of the city.

The new part of Amsterdam, beyond the Singelgracht, is a complete contrast to the old historic section. The residential districts were laid out in 1900 by the architect Berlage, who designed for present-day Amsterdam one of the most modern city plans in the world. The streets here are as wide as most of the old ones are narrow, with many parks and open spaces. The architectural style of many of the houses is very modernistic, with a great deal of glass. In pre-war days streetcar service from the old to the modern section was good and the distances relatively short.

Food, Drink, and Entertainment.

Before the war the Dutch had excellent food and a great deal of it. The better restaurants served mostly French cooking, but national specialties which you might find in Amsterdam included a Dutch cut of steak (*biefstuk*) served with home-fried potatoes; *rolpens* (minced beef rolled in a blanket of tripe and pickled); *flensjes* (Dutch pancakes); *erwtensoep met worst* (thick pea soup with sausage); and *kalfsvleisch croquetten*, which are the Dutch equivalent of our hot dog or hamburger and could be had in the corner automats. The most picturesque restaurant in Amsterdam before the war was established in 1870; it was a meeting-place of journalists and politicians and had retained its original atmosphere and traditions. Its *biefstuk* was famous, so famous that the steaks were numbered, each diner getting a card reading "Since 1870 we have been selling beefsteak. This is No. —." By 1940 it had sold something like four and a half million steaks, but there is probably a shortage now.

The most popular drinks in the Netherlands are Dutch gin and beer. Dutch gin is drunk straight, or with bitters, before dinner. It is strong and beginners should approach it with caution. The

Dutch begin the day with tea at breakfast, and from that moment on they drink something every few hours, alternating tea and coffee.

There are, or used to be, a number of night clubs in Amsterdam, mostly in the neighborhood of the Rembrandtplein; most of them were small, expensive, and not very exciting compared to New York ones. The Dutch are more inclined to go to public cafes, which often have excellent orchestras. Dutch young people like American jazz; Calloway and Ellington are as well-known there as in the States. Mostly, however, the Dutch like quiet amusements; a favorite leisure occupation is just to sit on one of the café terraces watching the passers-by and discussing the news over a glass of beer or a cup of coffee or tea. Since Amsterdam people entertain at home more than they go out, your best bet for a pleasant evening with a nice girl is to get yourself an invitation from a Dutch family; as Amsterdamers are very hospitable, this should not be too difficult.

There are plenty of movie houses in Amsterdam; before the war they always had the latest American or English pictures. There are also several legitimate theaters, the biggest being the municipal theater on the Leidscheplein. The small theaters,

called cabarets and specializing in *Kleinkunst* (small art) are the most typically Dutch. Amsterdam has one of the world's greatest symphonic orchestras, and if you love music and are there during the season, you will not want to miss it.

Surroundings of Amsterdam.

If the streetcars or electric trains are running, you can go in a short time to a beautiful beach on the Nordzee (North Sea), called Zandvoort, only 15 miles from Amsterdam. Marken and Volendam, famous for their costumes (the peaked caps worn by the women, the wide trousers worn by the men, and the wooden shoes worn by everybody), can be visited in a day from Amsterdam, going by ferry and tram, or by steam launch through the typical Dutch *polder* or lowland country. Het Gooi is a suburb known for its beautiful woods, where you can hike or cycle. Farther out, to the north, are Alkmaar, famous for its Friday morning cheese market, and the picturesque town of Zaandam, where you can still see the house in which Peter the Great lived while he learned to build ships, before he became Emperor of Russia.

N
GRONINGEN
STATION
KORRE WIERDEN WINSUM
GRONINGEN-DELFZIJL
NOORDSTR
GEDEMPTE OOSTERHAMRIK
OOSTERHAMRIK
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GRACHT
TURF SINGEL
SINGEL
OUDE KIJK IN DE PUT STR
OUDE KIJK IN DE PUT STR
WESTERSTR
OUDE BOTERMARKT
OUDE BOTERMARKT
OUDE BOTERMARKT

town hall, restored in Greek classical style. Behind this is the UNIVERSITY. Groningen was always well known for its university which was founded in 1614. An item of exceeding interest in the library of the university is a copy of the New Testament of Erasmus, annotated by Martin Luther.

Center of the city is DE GROOTE and VISCHMARKT. From this center five old streets radiate, each named after one of the old Groningen families.

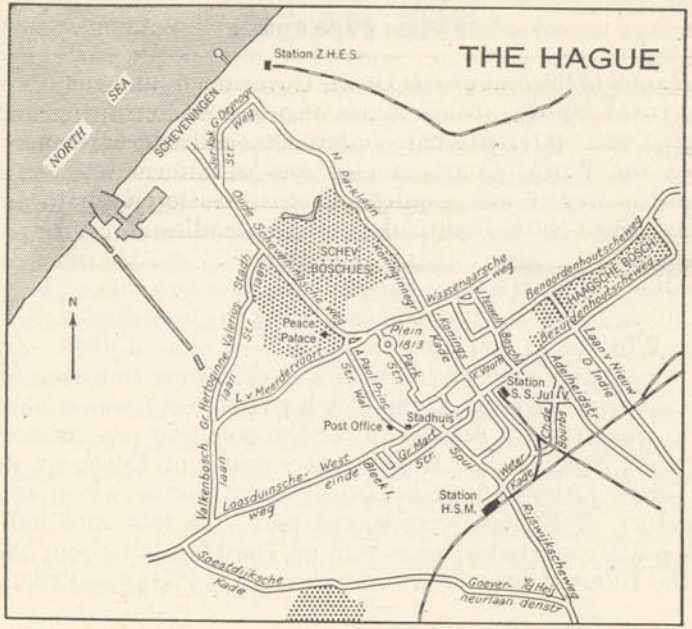
Because Groningen is the only large city in its part of the country, it is the shopping and market center for the whole region. Because of these many visitors it has become quite a lively city with, of necessity, many good restaurants and places of entertainment. Entertainment, however, is of a typically restrained Dutch nature. Famous in Groningen is DE GRONINGER KOEK, a special type of cake. There are several moviehouses and plenty of sport facilities. You will find Groningen busiest and most interesting during the annual country fair when many inhabitants of the province of Groningen flock to the city for a good time.

Trips can be made from Groningen to the picturesque town of DELFZIJL, a little harbor on the DOLLART, and to PATERSWOLDE, a region of woods and moors.

THE HAGUE

THE HAGUE is the seat of the Dutch Government and the residence of the royal family. Since it has also been for centuries a meeting place for international conferences and more recently the seat of the World Court, it is a sort of international capital. Before the war it was a quiet and aristocratic city with stately avenues, lined with beautiful homes, extending for miles from the center.

In Dutch, The Hague is called *'s Gravenhage*, "The Hedge of the Counts," from the hedge surrounding the hunting lodge which Count William II of Holland built here around 1250. It has been the seat of government of the Netherlands since the States General (*Staten Generaal*, the Dutch parliament) was established here in the sixteenth century, after the northern provinces broke away from Spain. The Hague was a center of European diplomacy in the 17th and 18th centuries; many treaties which affected the history of Europe were signed here. In 1899 and 1907 the world peace conferences were held at The Hague. From 1899 to 1940 the International Court of Arbitration ("Hague Tribunal")



sat here—after 1913 in a great granite Peace Palace paid for by Andrew Carnegie, where the World Court also held its sessions from 1922 on.

A good place to start sightseeing is the small square called simply Het Plein (The Square), in the center of which (unless the Germans took it away) is a bronze statue of William the Silent, who united the Dutch provinces against Spanish rule during the sixteenth century. A block to the north is a charming rectangular lake called the Vijver (fish pond), in which the city maintains a flock of civic swans. On the southern side of the Vijver are the most interesting historic buildings of The Hague, in a block of buildings called Het Binnenhof (meaning "inner court").

The Binnenhof was once surrounded by a moat and is still entered through its ancient gateways. Here is the oldest building in the city, the Gothic Ridderzaal (Hall of the Knights), dating from 1291. In the great hall, with its high-arched painted roof, the representatives of the States of the Netherlands renounced their allegiance to Spain. In front of the Ridderzaal the great Dutch statesman Johan van Oldenbarneveldt was executed for treason in 1619. On the west side of the Vijver is the Gevangenpoort, the

picturesque but gloomy old prison where another great Dutch statesman, Cornelis de Witt, was imprisoned in 1672 and from which he was dragged with his brother John to be killed by the mob. The north and south wings of the Binnenhof are now used by the two houses of the Dutch Parliament. At the eastern entrance of the Binnenhof is the MAURITSHUIS, one of the finest small picture galleries in Europe, with many famous paintings by Rembrandt, Vermeer, Hals, and other great Dutchmen; the best known of them, and one of the greatest paintings in the world, is Rembrandt's "The Anatomy Lesson."

Just west of the Binnenhof is the BUITENHOF (Outer Court), a big and lively square which is the center of life of The Hague. If you keep going west, you will come first to the STADTHUIS or TOWN HALL, first built in the sixteenth century, added to in the eighteenth, and considered one of the most interesting examples of Dutch architecture. Beyond the Stadthuis is the GROOTE KERK (Great Church), a Gothic Church of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, where several Dutch celebrities are buried and where Queen Wilhelmina and Crown Princess Juliana were married.

There are many other interesting buildings in The Hague, among them the SPINOZAHUIS, where the great philosopher Benedict

Spinoza lived from 1671 until his death in 1677; Carnegie's vast granite PALACE OF PEACE with its handsome formal gardens; the KRÖLLER MUSEUM, which has a good collection of modern paintings; and the MESDAG MUSEUM, with very fine nineteenth century French and Dutch paintings. But you may be more interested in excursions to the beautiful outskirts of the city. To the east of the *Plein* and across the PRINCESSEGRACHT (Princess' Canal) is the HAAGSCHE BOSCH (Wood of The Hague), perhaps the most magnificent city forest in Europe, about 2½ miles long and half a mile wide, with tall trees and pleasant paths. If you walk east through the *Bosch* for about half an hour, you will come to HET HUIS TEN BOSCH (the House in the Woods), a royal villa built in 1647 for the daughter-in-law of William the Silent, charmingly furnished by Dutch and Chinese artists, with many curiosities worth seeing. Another delightful wood is the SCHEVENINGSCHE BOSCH, to the north of the center of the city. If you can lay hands on a bicycle, you will find that it is the best means of locomotion.

One excursion you will not want to miss is to SCHEVENINGEN, the beautiful beach on the North Sea, at the edge of the city. Before the war it was easy to get to, simply by taking a tram from the Buitenhof. The surf at Scheveningen is always good, and in

summer there used to be plenty of places to dance and eat (including the Kurhaus), good concerts in the Kursaal, and a big display of fireworks every Thursday. Besides its two miles of beach and smart hotels, Scheveningen includes an old fishing village with narrow streets, picturesque houses, and interesting local costumes. There is another good beach at NOORDWIJK, only 20 miles from The Hague. The old university city of LEIDEN is 15 miles north of The Hague, and the picturesque town of DELFT less than 10 miles east.

There is not much night life in The Hague, outside of the places at Scheveningen, because it is mainly a city of homes. But there are a number of good movie houses and several legitimate theaters. If the food situation permits, a Hague specialty to try is *Indische Rijsttafel*, a Dutch East Indian dish of boiled rice served with side dishes of shrimp, meat balls, chicken, tiny red fishes, onions, fried bananas, and so forth. It is very good, very exotic, and flavored with the hottest pepper in the world.

HAARLEM

HAARLEM, the fifth city of the Netherlands, with a population of about 120,000, is the seat of the government of the province of North Holland. Although the provincial government and a number of industries are located here, the city is to a certain extent a suburb of Amsterdam, only twelve miles away.

Haarlem became known for the first time in Dutch history during the war against the Spanish. During that period it was under a long siege by the Spaniards and finally after a brave defense surrendered under certain conditions, which were, however, not kept by the Spanish. The most famous person in the defense of the city was Kenau Simons Hasselaar, a courageous woman who inspired men as well as women to continue the struggle and resist the enemy. The greatest boom period came for the city when, in the seventeenth century, the bulb trade grew to tremendous proportions. The fall of this trade ended that period. During the time of Napoleon, Haarlem was for a short while the capital of the Netherlands.

The center of Haarlem is the GROOTE MARKT (Big Market) a

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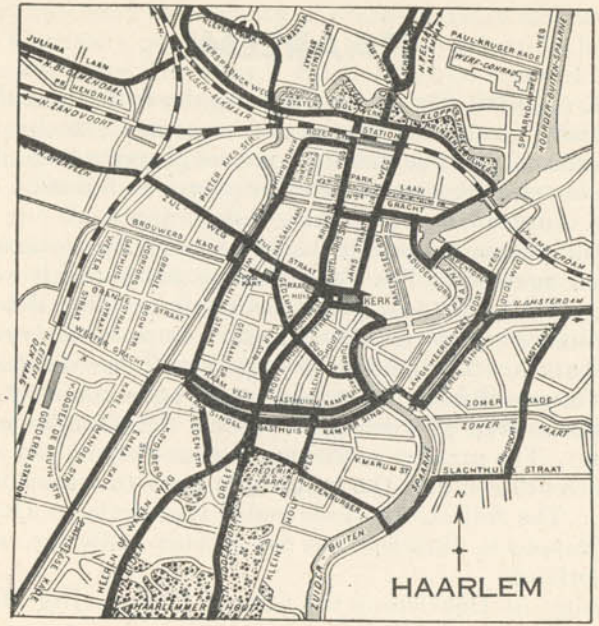


square which is surrounded by old historic buildings. In one corner stands the CHURCH OF ST. BAVO, an impressive fifteenth century Gothic structure. It is one of the largest churches in Holland and is noted for its tower which rises to a height of 260 feet. At the west end are the old MEAT MARKET BUILDING, dating from 1602, regarded as one of the oddest buildings in Holland, and the OLD FISH HOUSE. Opposite the St. Bavo Church is the OLD TOWN HALL, another sixteenth century building. A few blocks away is the FRANS HALS MUSEUM with a beautiful collection of seventeenth century Dutch paintings. The well known painter, Frans Hals, although born in Antwerp, lived most of his life in Haarlem.

A little away from the center of town is the new ST. BAVO CHURCH, a large impressive church built in the thirties. Especially beautiful in Haarlem are the suburbs, BLOEMENDAAL, HEEMSTEDE, AERDENHOUT and BENTVELD, largely populated by commuters from Amsterdam. The ocean is only 8 miles away and there are extremely large and attractive beaches very near; the best known of which is ZANDVOORT.

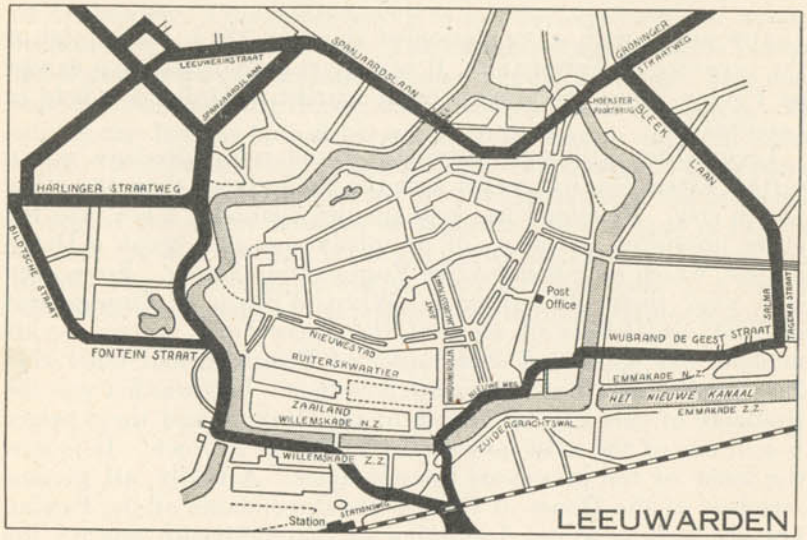
Haarlem has several good restaurants, mostly in the old city center. In the same quarter are most of the shops and movie theaters. As in most Dutch cities, nightlife is limited.

For small side trips Haarlem is ideal. Only 8 miles distant and easily reached by electric train, streetcar or bus, is the large beach of ZANDVOORT. This resort has up to date bathing facilities, hotels, restaurants, places to dance. The capital, AMSTERDAM, is twelve miles away with fast transportation every ten minutes. Just outside Haarlem are the dunes, where one can hike or bicycle. In spring the famous bulb fields are in full blossom only ten miles away. Another nice trip is to the castle of BREDERODE. Only ruins are left of this building but they are the remnants of the residence of one of the oldest families of Holland and the spot is ideally located. A little farther is the old university town of LEIDEN and the old city of ALKMAAR where, every Friday, there is a cheese market to which most of the people come in their historic costumes.

LEEUWARDEN

LEEUWARDEN, with a population of about 50,000, is the capital of the province of FRIESLAND. It is a quiet provincial town except on Friday, when the biggest cattle market in Holland is held in Leeuwarden.

Leeuwarden, although thoroughly Dutch in architecture, is to a certain extent less integrated with the Netherlands than any other Dutch city. Friesland has kept its own character more than the other provinces and many of its inhabitants still speak a Dutch dialect, which sounds more like English than Dutch. Some even still wear their old costumes. When William of Orange was selected *stadtholder* of most of the Netherlands provinces, his nephew was appointed *stadtholder* of Friesland and until 1748 Friesland always had a separate governor. Leeuwarden was the residence of this Frisian branch of the Oranges and their palace is still one of the most noteworthy buildings in town. It is now the home of the provincial commissioner. Actually, all present members of the House of Orange are descendants of the Frisian branch, because by the beginning of the eighteenth century the



other branches had died out. Very little is known about the early history of the town. It used to be famed for its gold and silverwork, but now it is primarily an agricultural center.

Most interesting buildings are the TOWNHALL, an eighteenth century building with interesting archives, the before-mentioned Queen's palace, built in 1587, the GROOTE KERK (great church), and the FRISIAN MUSEUM. This museum is probably the most interesting feature of Leeuwarden, and one of the best of its kind in Holland. It gives not only a good picture of early Frisian life, but contains an excellent Delft china collection, a collection of antiquities and weapons, and a portrait gallery. Opposite the Museum is the CHANCELLERY, an exquisite piece of late Gothic architecture. Charming is the old WEIGH HOUSE dating from 1596, surrounded by a number of characteristic sixteenth and seventeenth century houses. In the West End of the town is an old tower, called OLDEHOVE, a very ancient red brick building, intended to be the beginning of the church which was never completed.

Leeuwarden like every Dutch town has some good restaurants and movie theaters. Travelling companies present stage shows

from time to time. It is, however, a quiet town without too much recreation.

Some very nice excursions can be made from the city. South of the city are the FRISIAN LAKES where it is ideal in the summer for sailing and in the winter for skating. To the west is the historic village of HINDELOOPEN where everything looks as though it had not changed in the last two hundred years. As a contrast it is interesting to visit the Frisian end of the big ZUIDERZEEDIKE which has closed the Zuiderzee, now called IJSSELMEER, off from the ocean and is a wonder of modern engineering. Another attractive trip is to go to the old cities of FRANEKER, where in old times one of the Dutch universities used to be located, and HARLINGEN, a small port on a direct shipping line to Hull in England.

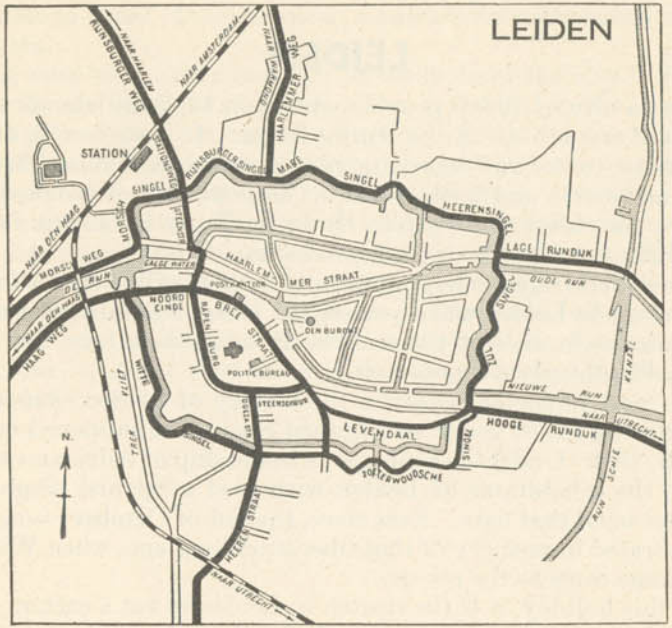
LEIDEN

LEIDEN, a city of 70,000 people, is built on 50 small islands at the mouth of one branch of the RHINE RIVER. It is primarily an old university town, and has long been rich in museums, libraries, printing houses and book stores. Commercially, it is noted as a market for cheese and butter. Industrially, it is famous for the manufacture of textile or cloth products.

It is not entirely modern, however, and you will gather a feeling for history in Leiden when you see the BURG, a building set up by the Romans in ancient times. The Romans were here first, and they called the place *Lugdunum*.

The most important event in the history of Leiden came much later during the 80 years' war against Spain. It happened on October 3, 1574. Under the courageous leadership of Adriaan van der Werff, the inhabitants of Leiden withstood a Spanish siege, and held out until that date. Ever since, the 3rd of October every year is celebrated in memory of that liberation long ago, when William of Orange came to the rescue.

On this holiday, it is the custom in Leiden to eat a certain mix-



ture of carrots, potatoes, and spare ribs, as a reminder of the hard days of the siege. They call this dish *Hutspot en Klaprib*.

When Leiden was freed, William of Orange wanted to reward the bravery of the defenders. He offered the people either a university, or the privilege of going free of taxes for a while. Leiden made its choice—a university.

Founded in 1575, the UNIVERSITY OF LEIDEN grew to be world-famous. Brilliant scholars from all over the world went there, including Grotius and Descartes. The law school of this university had a reputation as the best in Europe.

Its medical school, and its college for Indonesian studies have likewise been famous.

You'll find reminders in Leiden of the persecuted English nonconformists who found religious freedom first in Holland, then in America. These Pilgrim Fathers spent ten years in Leiden, and then in 1620, a small number of them, 102 souls in fact, sailed to America by way of England. This was the famous *Mayflower* Voyage to Plymouth Rock.

A man who never made the trip, though he helped to promote it, is remembered in Leiden to this day. He was the learned John Robinson, who wrote a book called "A Justification of Sep-

aration from the Church of England" in 1610. In 1615, he attended the University of Leiden, and though he was an Englishman and a non-conformist, he was allowed to argue freely on religious questions, something he could not have done in England at that time.

You can see JOHN ROBINSON'S HOUSE in Leiden, and you can see where he is buried in ST. PETER'S CHURCH.

Five famous Dutch painters were born in Leiden, including Rembrandt, the giant of them all. The other four were Jan Steen, Gerard Dou, Jan van Goyen and Lucas van Leiden. As painters of the domestic scene, their lives and their works were not confined particularly to Leiden, but rather ranged the Netherlands as a whole. Nevertheless, Leiden is proud to have mothered these great men of art.

One of the finest streets in Europe is the BREEDE-STRAAT (Broadstreet), the main drag of Leiden. Along here you will see the STADHUIS (Town Hall), originally founded in the 16th century. Opposite the Town Hall is the GEMEENLANDSHUIS VAN RYNLAND (Rhineland Community Center).

The STADHUIS is picturesque, with 30 windows in a line in front, a tall spire and three highly ornamented projecting gables. In

the Council Chamber you can see Lucas van Leiden's version of "The Last Judgment," and several good historical portraits.

Another street in Leiden is called HET RAPENBURG. The University of Leiden is located here.

Connected with the university are a well laid out BOTANIC GARDEN, an OBSERVATORY, and a LIBRARY of 400,000 volumes, with over 3,000 maps and about 7,000 ancient manuscripts of priceless value. The MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY has one of the richest collections in existence. The MUSEUM OF ANTIQUITIES and the MUNICIPAL MUSEUM are two other establishments which contribute to Leiden's fame as a center of culture and learning.

THE REFORMED CHURCH OF ST. PETER, contains monuments to Boerhaave, Spanheim, and Scaliger, noteworthy men in the city's history. Boerhaave, for example, was one of the world's first doctors.

Near the red brick St. Peter's, you can also see a monument to the burgomaster Van der Werff, hero of the Spanish siege of 1574.

The FISH MARKET, the CORN EXCHANGE, and the CHURCH OF ST. PANCREAS are three other interesting places in Leiden.

For recreation, people of Leiden often go ten miles away to The Hague, or 22 miles away to Amsterdam. Among these three

famous and closely related cities you can find a wide variety of entertainment, including the gay places where young students gather.

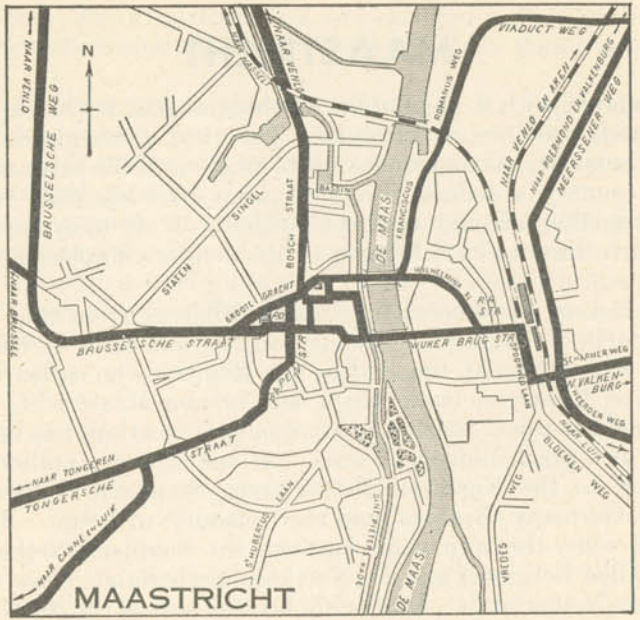
Around Leiden, you might visit tulip fields, for which Holland is world-renowned. You might go by streetcar to the quaint fishing town of KATWIJK, or to the seashore resort at NOORDWIJK. Bathing in both places is ideal.

The tulip garden, or the picturesque windmill you may visit in the outlying suburbs of Leiden are places of as much interest as the university, according to your mood. Wherever you wander you will meet people of Leiden who will welcome your interest in their liberated city.

MAASTRICHT

MAASTRICHT, with a population of about 65,000, is the capital of the Dutch province of LIMBURG. The city, although resolutely Dutch in spirit, has on account of its location in the extreme south of the country, a definite foreign touch. It is less than 15 miles from the Belgian and German borders. It is of a particular interest to lovers of art because of its ancient churches and their treasures.

The history of Maastricht is quite different from that of the other parts of Holland. The city on the left bank of the river Meuse was originally founded by the Romans who called it *Trajectum ad Mosam*—a name which later became Maastricht. Since that time the town, because of its strategic location, has been the victim of a great number of wars. At one time or another it has belonged to the Northern Netherlands, Southern Netherlands, France, Germany, Brabant, and the Bishopric of Liège. Finally, in 1839 when the split came between the Southern Netherlands (now called Belgium) and the Northern Netherlands (now simply called the Netherlands), Maastricht became part of the North. All



these changes in administration have caused Maastricht to reflect different political and social influences.

If you arrive in town by train you'll find yourself in the quiet suburb of Wyk. To get to town you go down the Station-Straat and the Brugstraat to the Maas Bridge which crosses the Maas River (Meuse River as you probably know it). This bridge was originally built in 1280 and rebuilt in 1683. Before crossing it you might visit the modern Gothic Church of St. Martin.

As you cross the Meuse and enter the town you might swing off the Brugstraat and go down the Kleine Staat to the so-called Old Town Hall (Oud Stadhuis). Here you'll find a fine old 15th century building full of Roman and medieval antiquities. To get to the real Town Hall, located on the market place, you take the Muntstraat, which is a fine wide street. On the way you might take a look at the former Augustine Church with its beautiful baroque east façade.

The real Town Hall (Stadhuis) is a 17th century building and is worth a visit for its finely proportioned central hall and the adjoining rooms containing pictures, old leather hangings, and Brussels tapestry by Van Der Borght. These tapestries represent the history of the Israelites in the wilderness.

From here you might walk up the Boschstraat for a visit to the Roman Catholic Church of St. Matthew (St. Matthiaskerk) which is an ancient Gothic building constructed in the 15th century.

The Church of St. Servatius is located in the southwest of the Vrijthof. It is especially worth seeing for it is the oldest church in the Netherlands, dating all the way back to 560–599. It has, however, been considerably modernized. Its chief feature is the Emperor's Hall which contains a fine marble statue of Charlemagne. Against its pedestal are exhibited remains of a stone altar to the Madonna dating to the 12th century and the oldest fixed reredos in existence.

Other churches of interest are the Protestant Church, formerly the baptistry of the cathedral (St. Janskerk), dating to the 15th century; the Church of Notre Dame dating to the 11th century; and the Church of the Minorities, 13th century.

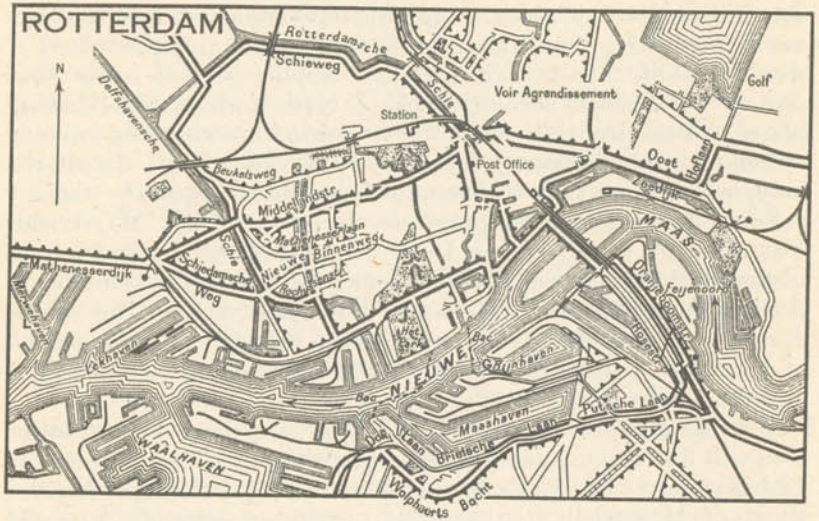
For a rest period you might try the Stads-Park. It has a good restaurant and a fine view of the Meuse. Concerts used to, and may still, take place here in the summer.

One of the principal and very interesting features of Maastricht are the Petersberg Caverns. These are a subterranean labyrinth of sandstone quarries about 40 minutes' walk from the city. They

are said to have served for many purposes. One report is that the underground movement in the Netherlands used the caverns as a hiding place, while other reports have indicated that the Germans intended to build a manufacturing plant in them where it would be safe against air attacks. Earlier stories relate that during the French revolution the caverns formed ideal hiding places. You probably won't be permitted to visit the caverns without a guide, because you can easily lose your way. In all, the labyrinth is more than twelve miles long and seven miles wide.

Some very nice excursions can be made from Maastricht. Valkenburg, a well-known Dutch summer resort located in one of the few hilly parts of Holland, is only 17 minutes away by train. A nice jaunt is to the Château of Chaloens, a beautiful castle. A couple of interesting trips would be to the big coal mine region of Heerlen, a little farther North, to the Belgian city of Liège and the famous resort, Spa.

You should not consider Maastricht a typical Dutch town. You will find it much more Southern in character than the regular Dutch places. But you will, undoubtedly, enjoy the light-hearted spirit of Maastricht's citizens, its historic monuments, its good food if it is again available, and its attractive surroundings.



ROTTERDAM

ROTTERDAM, with a population of approximately 600,000, is one of the large seaports of the Continent. Consequently it is more of an international town than exclusively a Dutch town. Still, it has many Dutch characteristics, and you can't imagine the city as being anywhere else than in Holland. Rotterdam has become very well known in this war as one of the worst sufferers at the hands of the Hitler Regime. On 14 May 1940 the Luftwaffe bombed the city indiscriminately and at least one-third of the city, including the whole center, was destroyed.

Rotterdam was originally a settlement built around a dam in the river ROTTE. Very few particulars are known about its early history except that in 1279, the settlement obtained a city charter. Although the city derives its name from the river Rotte, it is the river MEUSE which has made Rotterdam flourish, furnishing the town with a direct outlet to the ocean as well as to the interior. The main part of the city is on the right bank of the river. The most famous person ever born in Rotterdam was undoubtedly

Erasmus, one of the world's greatest scholars. Erasmus was born in 1463 and became one of the great humanists.

Rotterdam experiences two constant difficulties in keeping its place among the world's big ports. It has to compete with the Belgian city of Antwerp, and it has to keep the mouth of the Meuse in such condition that it can be navigated by the world's biggest ocean steamers. To remedy this latter difficulty, a special canal called De Nieuwe Waterweg (the new waterway) was dug to the sea. A remarkable feature is that the mouth of this canal, although twenty miles away, is the property of the municipality of Rotterdam and the settlement there, called the Hook of Holland, is part of Rotterdam.

The city has relatively few historic buildings. Its real development only came within the last hundred years and its population is mostly made up of industrialists and tradespeople. Most well-known was the Church of St. Lawrence, founded in 1414, where several historic Dutch admirals were buried. A famous modern building in Rotterdam is the Boymans Museum, which contains one of the most beautiful art collections in the world. It was built during the late thirties in accordance with the most modern museum technique. During this same period the city of Rotterdam

embarked on a big program of beautifying the city Along the main drive, called Coolsingel, a modern townhall, central post office, exchange, department store and hotel were just or nearly completed. According to reports, the whole Coolsingel has been wiped out and only emergency stores are there now. In the suburbs there are some very remarkable buildings, an ultra modern coffee plant built almost entirely of glass, and an office building called the White House. In Rotterdam, railroads, above and on the ground, cross the city everywhere. The attractive part of the city is the modern harbor and the bridges over the river Meuse. A tunnel under the river, which had been started before the war, may now be finished. On the other side of the river is the suburb Feyenoord, actually part of the city, and except for some modern apartment buildings, not especially noteworthy for the traveller. Many rich Rotterdam citizens commute to The Hague or its suburbs.

Before the war Rotterdam had a somewhat livelier nightlife than the other Dutch cities. Its restrictions were fewer because of the cosmopolitan nature of the large transient population. There were plenty of good restaurants. Herring and salmon belonged to the Rotterdam specialties. Movie-houses exist in great numbers

and there are a few regular theaters. The city has an excellent commercial college, which ranks just below the universities.

The sport center is the new stadium at the other side of the river. In addition, there are many tennis courts available for use. Or you may prefer water sports. The river and many lakes nearby will settle that problem for you. The best way to see Rotterdam is to take one of the tours by boat which go regularly through the canals with a guide to explain the particulars.

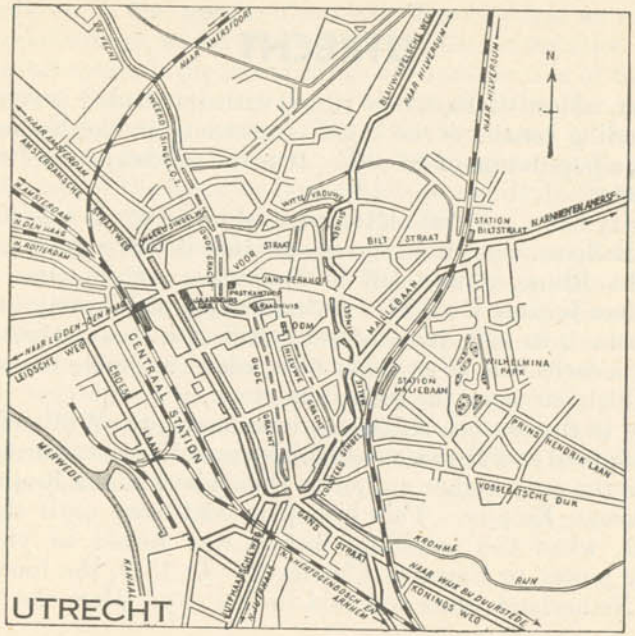
There are many possibilities for excursions from Rotterdam. Nearby is the modern airport, called WAALHAVEN; within ten miles is the old, attractive city of DELFT. Of the nearest Beaches, the HOOK OF HOLLAND and SCHEVENINGEN are the most attractive. Both beaches are connected with the city by fast electric trains. Another trip should be made to GOUDA, home not only of Gouda cheese, but of one of the most beautiful Dutch churches. If you have more time, the islands of ZEELAND are full of folk-lore and history and should be visited.

UTRECHT

UTRECHT, oldest of Batavian cities, with its shaded promenades and winding canals, is the third largest city in the Netherlands and has a population of 160,000. It is the capital of the Province of Utrecht.

The city has a colorful and important history. It was founded by the Romans, who chose the site because it was a good place to cross the Rhine. They call it *Trajectum ad Rhenum*, which name later became Utrecht. An indication of its early military importance is its abundance of old fortifications now accessible by fine boulevards. Modern times have added a double line of new forts which surround the entire city.

Early in the seventh century, a missionary, St. Willbord, came from England and founded the Bishopric of Utrecht, which recognized as the only higher authority than himself, the Emperor of the German Empire. This bishopric continued until the year of 1527, when the presiding bishop was forced to yield his worldly power to Emperor Charles V. In 1579, the foundation of the Netherlands state was laid in this city. Here the "Union



of Utrecht," a pact between seven Northern Netherlands provinces, was signed, and William of Orange was chosen as *stadtholder*. Years later, Utrecht was the scene of the signing of the famous Peace of Utrecht which ended the Spanish War of Succession.

Utrecht, situated as it is, is the heart of Holland. It is the largest railroad center and inland shipping center in the Netherlands. All freight going by boat from Amsterdam to the Rhineland, or to Rotterdam, goes via Utrecht. Several new canals have been built for this purpose.

Like many other Dutch cities, Utrecht has preserved the old center of town with its historic buildings and monuments. The most famous of these, the Cathedral of St. Martin was built in 1250, and at that time was the finest Gothic structure in Holland. Unfortunately, a storm in 1674 destroyed the most beautiful parts of the cathedral, and the damage has never been repaired. Its adjoining tower, known as De Dom, dates back to 1321, and its chime of 42 bells is famous throughout the country. Near the Dom are the Cloisters and residence of the archbishop, built in the 13th century and restored in modern times by the well-known architect, Cuypers. Another old monument is the Pope's House, the home of the only Dutch pope, Adrian VI, which dates back to 1517.

The UNIVERSITY is also located in this neighborhood. It is a very famous institution.

In the main square stands a statue of John van Nassau, father of the Union of Utrecht, which keeps alive the memory of this historic conference. ST. PIETERSKERK built in 1039 and ST. JANSKERK built in 1050, in Roman style, are two other places of interest to antiquarians. A little farther on is the TOWN HALL. The basement has been modernized and now houses a cafe known as the Municipal Tavern, a meeting place for the townspeople. The CENTRAL MUSEUM, having a rare and interesting collection of antiques, and the RAILROAD MUSEUM, giving a complete picture of the Dutch railroad system, might be of interest to you. A well-known landmark of Utrecht is the MALIEBAAN, a wide triple avenue of lime trees which invites a leisurely stroll.

Utrecht, though not a large city, has a number of good restaurants and movie houses. It also boasts one legitimate theater. It is usually a quiet place but during the annual Commercial Fair, the tranquillity of the streets disappears and they fairly bustle with activity.

The surroundings of Utrecht are among the loveliest of any Dutch city and offer much more variety than those of other towns.

On one side of Utrecht you'll find the typical lowland landscape while on the other side there is beautiful hilly and wooded country. DE BILDT, where the DUTCH METEOROLOGIC INSTITUTE is located, and ZEIST are two lovely suburbs of Utrecht. Many commuters live in these places which are connected by interurban streetcars. On the way from Utrecht to Amsterdam along the river VECHT there are some interesting old castles, the most famous one being NIJENRODE which, before the war, was an art gallery. Only about a twenty-five minute ride away are the resort towns of HILVERSUM and BAARN, and for those who have a little longer time, the electric train ride to Amsterdam takes only 39 minutes.

OTHER PLACES

Arnhem.

Capital of the Province of Guelderland.

One of the most attractive towns in the Netherlands. A popular residence for wealthy Dutch families who made their fortunes in the East Indies. Many of these homes and grounds are open to visitors.

The district around Arnhem is the most picturesque in the Netherlands. To the west is the Reeberg on whose high ground is located a casino where summer concerts are held. From the Steenen Tafel (stone table), northeast of the town, you can get a splendid view of the Rhine valley.

Assen.

Capital of the Province of Drenthe.

A branch railway from Assen to Stadskanaal passes through a district containing many prehistoric tumuli or "giants' graves." The huge stones recall those of the Stonehenge in England and are glacial deposits from Scandinavia.

Dordrecht.

Usually called Dordt or Dort by the Dutch.

Handsomely situated on an island surrounded by the Merwede, the Oude Maas and the Dordtsche Kil. In the middle ages Dordrecht was the wealthiest commercial town in the Netherlands.

Scene of the first assembly of the independent states of Holland.

The older parts of Dordrecht retain all the characteristics of an old Dutch town—typical canals and charming houses.

Groote Kerk, 14th century, contains carved Choir Stalls, by Jan Terwen Aertsz, the most important work of its kind in the Netherlands.

Groothoofds-Poort, an ancient city gate, is now a museum.

Afrikaansch Museum contains relics of the Boer War.

Dordrecht Museum includes a collection of fine works by modern artists.

Park Merwestein and Oranje Park to the southeast of the town are pleasant promenades.

From the Zwyndrecht, a dyke on the right bank of the Oude Maas, you can obtain the best view of Dordrecht and the wide Merwede.

Helder.

In 1811 Napoleon started building heavy fortifications here, using Spanish prisoners of war for labor. These fortifications were later completed by the Dutch.

Three quarters of a mile east of town lies Nieuwediep, a harbor at the mouth of the North Holland Canal, where the Naval Cadet School is located.

One and a half miles to the west of Helder is the Lighthouse, situated on the dunes and affording a magnificent view of the sea.

An interesting walk is along the Helder Dyke, entirely constructed of blocks of Norwegian granite, descending to a depth of 200 ft. in the sea.

Opposite Helder is the island of Texel on which is the village of Koog, a fishing town and also a bathing resort. The north of the island is called Eyerland (land of eggs) because myriads of sea fowl nest here. Their eggs are collected and shipped to Amsterdam.

Hoorn.

Gabled buildings of the 17th century with walls adorned with colored tiles add charm to this old capital of West Freisland.

It is the birthplace of Willem Schouten who discovered the passage around the coast of South America and named it Cape Horn after his home town. Also born here was Jan Pietersz Coen, founder of the Dutch dominion in the East Indies.

A cheese market each Thursday is an interesting sight.

A fine view of the Zuider Zee may be obtained from the dyke.

'S Hertogenbosch.

Also called 'S Bosch is the capital of the Province of North Brabant.

The Raadhuis on the Groote Markt contains the Gemeentelyk Museum which displays ancient plans of the town and neighborhood, silver seals of the chief magistrates from 1213 to 1795, coin collections, instruments of torture, and other valuable relics.

St. Janskerk (the Cathedral) ranks third in importance to the Cathedral of Utrecht and the Church of St. Nicholas at Kampen, but surpasses both in richness of ornamentation. It contains a 13th century image of the Virgin which is carried in procession through the town every night from 7 July to 16 July.

Nymwegen.

Built on seven hills which occupy the left bank of the Waal.

The shady pleasure grounds of the Valkhof, on high ground above the Waal, afford an interesting visit. A few ruins of a palace built on Roman foundations by Charlemagne in 777 stand here. This palace was used as a seat of court under the Carlovingian, Saxon, Frankish and Hohenstaufen emperors.

The district east of Nymwegen rivals the beauty of Arnhem and Cleve. It is well wooded and undulating.

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